



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

# Crosscurrents

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## Mild winter boosts productivity in Grand Forks

By Virginia Regorrah  
East Grand Forks resident office

As winters go, 2001-2002 has been mild. It's only in the last two weeks that the temperature in the Grand Forks area has dipped to its normally bitter January temperatures.

While the lower-than-average snowfall has disappointed winter sports enthusiasts, it has been a boon to the contractors of the two active flood control projects in Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn.

Both contractors planned to work through the winter in order to meet interim completion dates specified in the Corps contracts, but neither contractor dreamed the weather would be mild enough to permit the scale of work they have been able to accomplish.

The construction representatives in the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks resident offices have been equally pleased. The magnitude of the contractor's work over the winter has kept them out on the job site.

Despite the cold, Francis Schanilec, Tom Stiel, Tom Barickman and Don Speulda have

been kept busy on both sides of the Red River, monitoring site safety, testing rebar temperatures prior to allowing concrete pours, reviewing QC testing and QC reports. All four men said they are thrilled with

the on-going construction.

As opposed to most winters, where they anxiously awaited the start of construction season in the north, this year, they're spending their days on the job site.

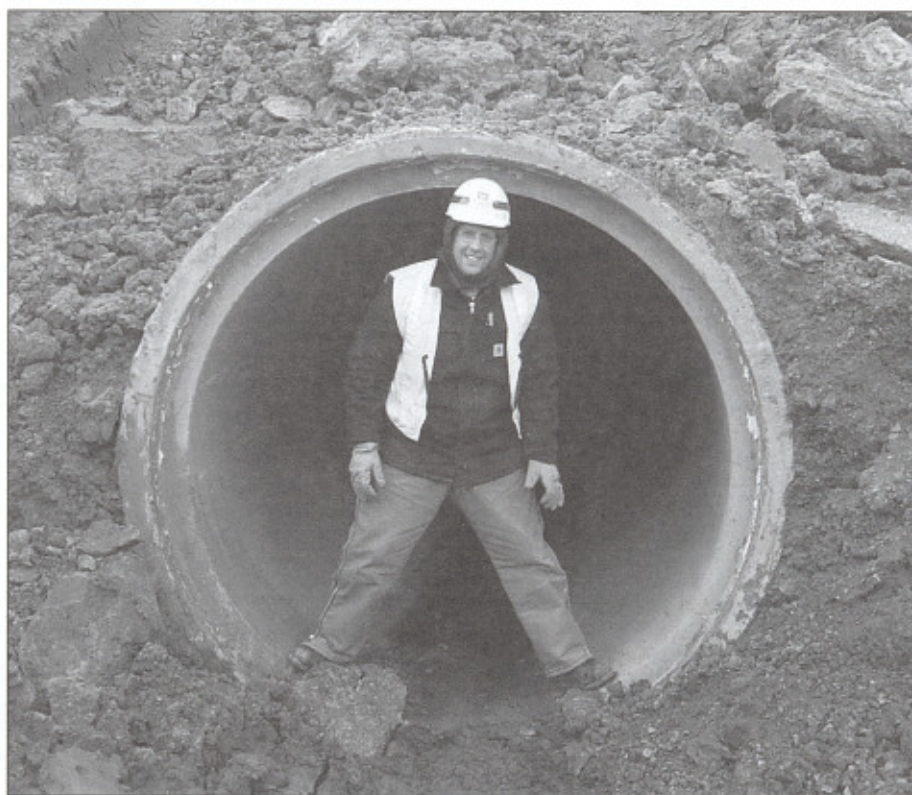


Photo by Ryan Otto

**Thomas Stiel, a Corps construction representative at the East Grand Forks resident office, stands in front of a 72 inch reinforced concrete pipe. The pipe is one of two 72 inch pipes that form the outfall for the K-10 pump station in Sherlock Park, East Grand Forks, Minn.**



## Now is the time to think about budget priorities

By Col. Robert L. Ball  
District Engineer

February means different things to different people. It is the month of Valentines Day and Presidents Day,



Black History Month and the month that the president's budget is released. This year's budget is even more interesting

because of the impact that the events of Sept. 11 have had. Remember the struggle last year over what to do with the budget surplus? I would like to share a few thoughts with you on how we as the St Paul District fit into the budget this year.

Before, during and after the formulation of the budget, we need to be able to justify what we do and how we do it. The president has stated that the top two priorities of the administration are winning the war against terrorism and recharging the nation's economy. While those are worthwhile priorities, at first glance they don't appear to have much in common with what we do. After all, we aren't sending employees to Afghanistan, we don't have a military construction mission and

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we certainly aren't listed on the Dow Jones. But we do have an active role to play in these two priorities and, thus, a real justification for our part of the budgetary pie.

The war on terrorism has the portion in the headlines being fought overseas, but it also has the homeland security piece. We are all involved in that by being vigilant in our daily job and reporting any suspicious individuals or activities. We also have a team working very hard, identifying threats and risks associated with each of the facilities under our control.

This team has worked for several months visiting each site and

collecting data that is put together in a report breaking out what measures should be taken at each site to increase the level of security. Associated costs are tabulated and the data is forwarded to HQUSACE for determination of what critical sites will be funded to raise their security levels.

It is less of a stretch to see how we play a role in recharging the economy. Those who operate the locks and dams, ensure the channels are dredged and keep the pools at required levels are directly supporting interstate commerce. Support to transportation on the rivers is a vital part of what we are about, but our flood control projects also impact the economy by the protection they provide and, thus, the damages they prevent. They, like all of our construction projects, are also done by civilian contractors, and the money paid them goes directly into the economy. That will be in excess of 70 million dollars this fiscal year and of particular note is our work with small and disadvantaged businesses to ensure they get a portion of the work, as well. Fortunately, in the past, Congress has seen the Corps as a good investment in jumpstarting the economy for those very reasons.

That's what we do. Now, we need to look at how we do it. That answer is up to each of us. We need to work as efficiently as we can to keep costs down, now more than ever. To be able to answer that what we do is relevant to the nation's priorities and that we do it efficiently is an unbeatable combination. I will leave it up to you as to how you will deal with Valentines Day, Presidents Day and Black History Month.



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### Crosscurrents

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## Pearcy joins district as historian

By Mark Davidson

Matt Percy is the new historian for the St. Paul District, replacing John Anfinson who moved on to the National Park Service in 2000.



Pearcy

Pearcy worked as a contractor with the Corps of Engineers at Vicksburg, Miss., and taught

American History at the University

of North Texas, where he earned his doctorate in 1996. His research interests include the history of the Corps of Engineers on the Mississippi River.

In addition to his project-related responsibilities, Percy is developing a plan to catalog the many historical and archaeological items scattered throughout the district.

"These items might include photographs, documents, maps, diaries, paintings, prints, engineering and electrical equipment, or paraphernalia related to the river — just about anything of historical interest," said Percy.

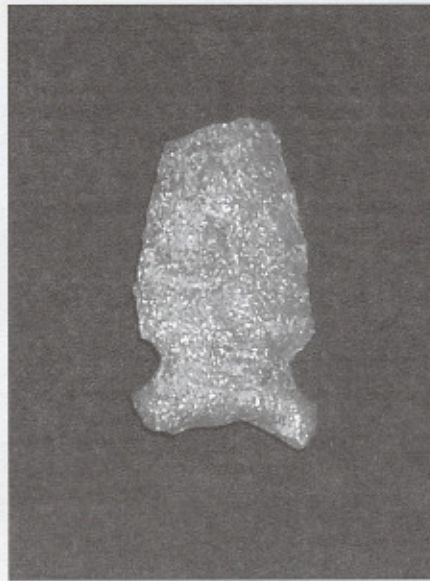
In his recent visit to St. Paul District, Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, expressed his interest in the cataloging project and recommended that all district

employees keep a look out for items to contribute to the planned Army Corps of Engineer museum in Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Some of you may recall a number of years ago when John Anfinson identified an old photo album on the Dredge William Thompson as the work of Henry Bosse. Today, that album has an estimated market value of \$1.5 million, and, more importantly, it has done a lot to draw attention to the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers," said Percy.

"I need the support of everyone in the district, particularly those out in the field. If you know of an artifact that might be interesting to our history, please contact me at the St. Paul District by e-mail or by calling 651-290-5252."

## Corps assists in excavation



Brad Johnson, cultural resources, holds the rim for a piece of pottery that's more than 1,200 years old. The artifact on the right is an ox-bow projectile point that's approximately 5,000 to 6,000 years old. These artifacts were part of an excavation in conjunction with building the memorial to Native Americans at the Sandy Lake recreation area in the Headwaters area. The footprint of the dig is 10 feet by 10 feet and 30 inches deep.

Photos by Anna Wetterling





Photo courtesy of Minnesota Future Cities

Corps project manager Jim Mosner (far left, sitting) helps judge a school-age team at the Minnesota Future Cities contest last month in St. Paul, Minn.

## District member volunteers at Minnesota Future Cities Competition

By Shannon Bauer

Jim Mosner of project management enjoys engineering and working with young people – so when he was given the opportunity to help judge several portions of the 2002 Minnesota Future Cities Competition in St. Paul, Minn., this past winter, he took it.

Sponsored by the National Engineers Week Committee, a consortium of more than 100

engineering societies and corporations, the Future Cities project was initiated 10 years ago to raise awareness and appreciation of engineering among middle school students. In Minnesota, the project is in its second year.

The competition invites student teams, working with a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor from the community, to design a city of the future electronically using a computer program, to write an essay about their community and to build a three-dimensional scale model.

As the students create an urban environment from the ground up, balance a city budget and deal with social problems, such as pollution and unemployment, the students solve intricate problems of math, science and technology.

Mosner, working in a team of three, helped judge both the computer and scale-models designed by the student teams from middle

schools throughout Minnesota. “It was really fascinating to see sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students present such high quality models and oral presentations,” he said. “What they were doing was comparable to what many of us here at the Corps, who have had to present a project to a local sponsor, have gone through; it can be quite nerve-racking. Yet these kids did a tremendous job.

“Some of the students designed very creative cities, with future-type technology, such as fusion power and mag-lev transportation systems,” he continued. “They had to do a lot of research, and I think it really stretched their abilities.”

This competition started in October and ran through January and was sponsored by schools across the state. The teams competed in three ways. First, they submitted a computer model of their city using Sim-City™ software; second, they composed a 100- to 200-word abstract and 300- to 500-word essay about their project; and finally, they presented a scale-model of their metropolis and oral presentation.

According to Mosner, 53 schools in Minnesota started the competition this year and 23 finished. The winner received an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the Future City Competition national finals, which will take place during National Engineers Week, Feb. 17-23. The first place national team will win a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

Maj. Gen. Robert Flowers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ commander, will speak at the national finals.

A Corps employee for more than 22 years, Mosner often volunteers

*(Continued on Page 6)*



## Forest technician judges science fair projects

By Dan Oles

*Does hair dye weaken hair?  
What effect does music have on  
plants? Who has better short-term  
memory adolescent males or  
adolescent females?*



Stuemke

These titles represent just a sampling of science experiments conducted by La Crescent, Minn., high school students during their annual science fair on

Jan. 11. For the past 10 years, Corps of Engineers employees from the Mississippi River Natural Resource Project in La Crescent have been judges in this science

fair.

This year, Leigh Stuemke, a temporary forestry technician with a degree in wildlife, accepted the role. "This was the first time I was a judge at a science fair," she said.

Fair organizers recruited a diverse group of judges, ranging from attorneys to microbiologists. The organizers divided the judges into teams of three and assigned each team a group of displays to evaluate. The judges then interviewed each student about their project and display.

"I really enjoyed interviewing the students and seeing how much they learned in the process," Stuemke said. "The detail and quality of work depended on the each student's motivation. I reviewed 12 projects, spending about 10 minutes at each project."

The judges individually scored each project, then got together into their teams and discussed the projects. Each team of judges picked projects that would compete in the regional science fair. Judges had their own favorite project, and Stuemke found herself discussing the merits of each project with two men, one a retired research manager and the other who held a doctorate degree. In the end, her team chose three students to compete in the regional fair.

"I enjoyed the challenge of judging the student's projects and then discussing the merits of each project with the two other judges on my team," said Stuemke. "I was even able to talk to a student about the Corps of Engineers and explain some of what we do."

## Personnel attitude survey results published by district

By Shannon Bauer

The Army Civilian Personnel Center released the results of this year's Civilian Personnel Attitude Survey late-January, releasing data by district for the first time ever.

Civilian personnel Army-wide complete this survey annually in October or November, so Army leadership can better gauge employee satisfaction with their jobs.

Around 242 employees, or 37 percent, and 47 supervisors, or 68 percent, responded to the survey from the St. Paul District this year. Linda Krueger, St. Paul District Civilian Personnel Advisory Center chief, said this was an outstanding response rate as far as surveys go.

"In general, district employees and supervisors felt satisfaction with their jobs," said Krueger. "They responded they had interesting and challenging work and received good support from their immediate supervisors."

In addition, she added, employees responded they felt confidence in the abilities of their co-workers and enjoyed working with each other. Supervisors, however, were not asked this question.

Both district employees and supervisors indicated two areas needing improvement: the job placement/promotion system, and the awards and recognition process.

"These are two areas I'm recommending we look at very closely," said Krueger, "because the results were much lower than the Army and the Corps of Engineers in general."

"We have two ongoing APIC [Army Performance Improvement Criteria] teams working on people-type issues," she explained. "They can use this survey for information on deciding what issues they will focus on."

The survey results have been posted on the district Intranet page.



## Machajewski organizes fundraiser for sick child

By Henrik Strandkov

Paul Machajewski, channel maintenance coordinator, isn't crazy.

He dove into 40-degree water in the middle of winter to help a friend.

Machajewski, who works at the Channels and Harbors Project in Fountain City, Wis., learned that the 3-year old son of one of his college friends had cancer. Machajewski and seven of his friends dove into Lake Michigan Dec. 22 to raise money for the boy's family.

Eric, the boy, is the son of Machajewski's college friend Terry Schuh. They attended the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, together from 1989 to 1991.

"Eric had a malignant tumor removed from his body and has since been diagnosed with Stage 1 Rhabdomyosarcoma, which is a

cancer of the muscle tissue," said Machajewski. "Eric's parents said the doctor's believe they caught the cancer soon enough, however, Eric must go through more than 40 weeks of chemotherapy."

On that same evening, Machajewski helped organize a fundraising effort that went towards paying the family's insurance coverage, mileage and lodging at the hospital, as well as testing of Eric's twin brother, Greg, to make sure he doesn't have the same cancer. They held a silent auction and raffle in the Milwaukee area.

Since the majority of the friends no longer live in the Milwaukee area, they wanted to figure out a way they could help from afar. "So we decided to ask people we knew to pledge donations if we jumped into Lake Michigan," he said.

All total, Machajewski and his friends raised \$15,600 for Eric and his family.

Just after Christmas, Machajewski said, Eric had 37 more chemo treatments left but the doctor's are 95 percent sure Eric will be cancer-free when they are done.

## DePoint helps build for school

By Mark Davidson

Most Corps employees use their annual leave to travel or to spend time relaxing away from work. Dave DePoint spent eight



DePoint

days of leave ordering lumber and pounding in nails and shingles.

DePoint used his own annual leave on eight

straight Fridays last fall to help plan and build two much-needed storage buildings for Fridley High School, in Fridley, Minn.

DePoint, the chief of logistics management, also worked most of the weekends after those Fridays to get the buildings done before snowfall. The buildings are being used to store additional school athletic equipment.

## Future Cities

(Continued from Page 4)

with youth groups such as the Boy Scouts of America. He learned about the Future Cities Competition through an engineering society he belongs to and volunteered to be a judge, which involved working two Saturdays – one in December and one in January.

The number of teams participating from 2001 to 2002 doubled, he said, and the competition sponsors expect the number of participants to increase again next year. More engineer mentors and judges will be needed in 2003, he said, and encouraged other Corps employees to get involved. The organization will start looking for volunteers again in August 2002. "It was lots of fun," he said in

encouragement. "I look forward to doing it again next year."

As for the students, Mosner said he asked several of them if they would be interested in getting involved in their local governments, now that they know something about cities. The majority of them responded they didn't feel ready enough yet to take on such a big responsibility.

For more information on the St. Paul Future Cities Competition in Minnesota, see [www.ssc.k12.mn.us/FutureCity.htm](http://www.ssc.k12.mn.us/FutureCity.htm)



## Corps of Engineers and city of Shakopee partner in erosion control project

By Shannon Bauer

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and the Shakopee Public Works Department recently completed an erosion control project that protects a major sewer line next to the Minnesota River.

This erosion control project included designing and building a 15-foot rock bench to stabilize 400 feet of eroding stream bank on the right bank of the river, upstream from the Old Highway 101 bridge. Its purpose was to protect an 18-inch sanitary sewer, located 10-25 feet parallel to the riverbank, from being exposed to the water.

"If the pipe had been exposed, it could have been a major disaster," said Craig Evans, USACE project

manager. "One third of the city's sewage runs through that line."

For much of the late 1990s, erosion along the Minnesota River threatened this sewer line. And in March 1999, the city moved the most vulnerable portion of it away from the river. However, the melting of the snow in the springs of 1999 and 2001 caused additional portions of the bank to recede another five to 10 feet.

Construction began Oct. 8 and was completed early-November. Around 2,500 cubic yards of riprap was placed along the bank to prevent future erosion. Turf establishment at the site will continue until September of this year. The project cost around \$260,000, around \$26,000 less than budgeted. The city of Shakopee will pay for \$77,000 of this amount.

Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 authorizes the Corps of Engineers to construct emergency stream bank protection projects to protect public infrastructure such as highways, utilities, churches and schools. Congress appropriated \$9 million for this nationwide program in fiscal year 2002.

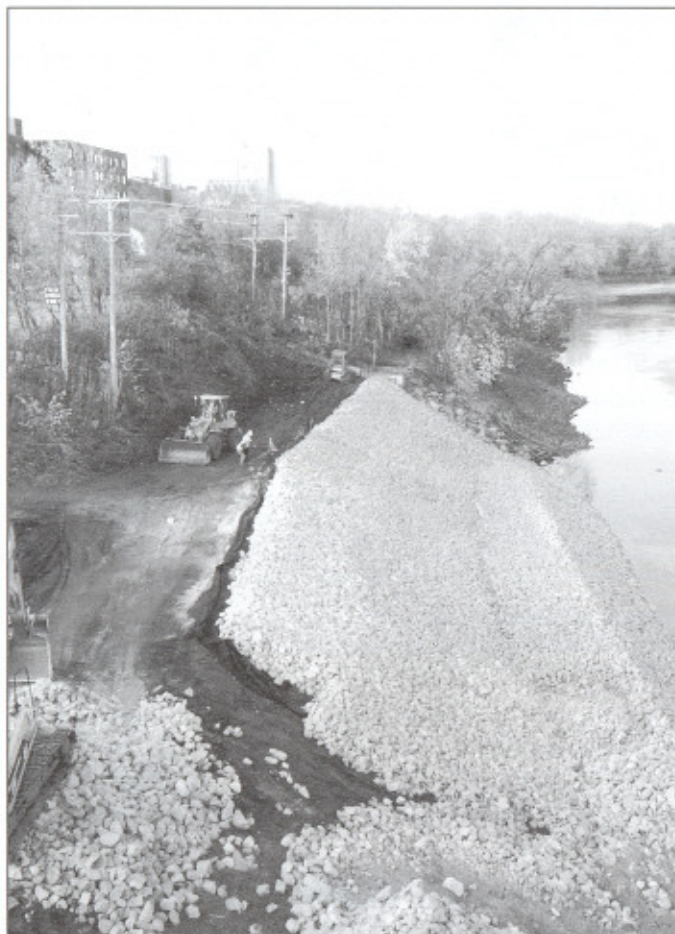


Photo by Craig Evans

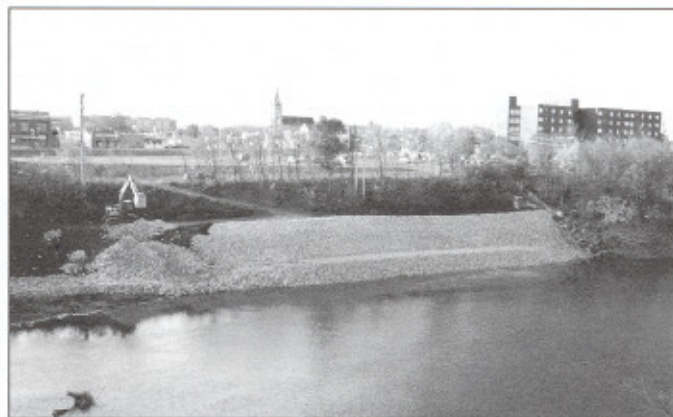


Photo by Craig Evans

Both photos on this page show a crew from Frontier Construction placing rock fill at the Shakopee Section 14 construction site.



## Bits and Pieces

### Brunet new resource management chief, new employees join district

Randy Brunet was selected as the chief of the resource management office. He has worked for the federal government since 1972 and the St. Paul District since 1996.



**Brunet**

Shannon Bauer is the district's new media specialist in public affairs. She was the managing editor for several Minneapolis newspapers prior to working for the Corps of Engineers.



**Bauer**

Other new employees include the following:

John Albrecht	RE
John Andrys	RE
Kevin Baumgard	CO
Gene Boeckman	IR
Dennis Born	RE
Christina Carballal	CO-R
Jeff Dezellar	PM
Kurt Heckendorf	ED
Corby Lewis	ED
Judy Marshall	PM
Brad Perkl	PM



Photo by Jon Lyman

**Brad Johnson, Environmental and Economic Evaluation branch, is the District Employee of the Month for December 2001. Matt Percy nominated Johnson, stating, "Although technically it is not his responsibility, Brad Johnson has gone to great lengths to introduce me to the cultural resource unit and has unselfishly taken it upon himself to educate me about my Section 106 responsibilities. He is highly knowledgeable, disciplined, hard working and conscientious, and he leads by example."**

### Employee of the Month nomination guidelines

Nominations for the Employee of the Month award may be made by employees to recognize other employees who: provide assistance beyond what is expected; demonstrate efforts to improve the district's public image; display sensitivity and awareness of the needs of others; and exhibit high morale and consideration of others in accomplishing their daily tasks.

The winner of this award will receive a monetary award of \$75 and honorary personal recognition via a prominently displayed St. Paul District plaque. Write in 75 words or less why the employee deserves to be rewarded. Submit your nomination(s) to Marsha Mose, executive assistant, by the 15th of each month. The Incentive Awards Committee will make selections in the month in which the nomination was received. For more information, contact Mose at Ext. 5301.

### Deaths

Long-time District employee **Bill Goetz**, 71, died on Jan. 29, 2002, in Scottsdale, Az. Goetz worked for the Corps of Engineers from 1957-1990. He was the chief of construction-operations from 1970-1990.

Former District employee **LuAnn Hoff** died on Jan. 27, 2002, in Tripp,

S.D., after battling cancer for many years. Hoff worked in the real estate division for 10 years.

**Harry Schulz, Sr.**, 91, died on Feb. 1, 2002 in Minneapolis. Schulz worked for the Corps of Engineers for 43 years. His last position with the St. Paul District was as the assistant lockmaster at Upper St. Anthony Falls.